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Cass County court participating in first Michigan 'Adoption Day' on Tuesday

CASSOPOLIS -- Cass County Probate Court will be among those participating in the first Michigan Adoption Day, according to Judge Susan Dobrich.

"We are very excited about this event," Dobrich said. "In most cases, people are not happy to come to court. Adoptions are the exception. Adoption is a joyous occasion for the families and the court, Family Independence Agency and the local other agencies.

"It has been said that the only time people are happy to go to court is when they are adopting a child.

"Overseeing a child's adoption into a stable, loving home is probably one of the few joyful duties for a Family Court judge or a Family Independence Agency child welfare worker."

Michigan Adoption Day is set for Nov. 25 -- two days before Thanksgiving. The theme for Adoption Day is "Giving Thanks for Families."

A work group convened by the Michigan Supreme Court, in cooperation with the Michigan Family Independence Agency, recently released a report on issues in Michigan's adoption system.

The work group, of which Dobrich was a member, noted that in Michigan, as of July 31, 2003, 12,673 were temporary wards of the court as a result of child protective proceedings.

As of that same date, a total of 19,490 children were in foster care.

At the end of the fiscal year 2002, Michigan had 4,615 permanent state wards available for adoption; 2,833 adoptions were finalized in FY 2002.

"The fact is that too many children are waiting to be adopted," the judge said.

"We hope that this event will help educate the public about the adoptions process and the number of children who need permanent, loving homes."

Please plan to attend Cass County's celebration of Adoption Day by attending adoption ceremonies and open house at Cass County Probate and Family Court beginning at

10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at the Law and Courts Building.

More information about Michigan Adoption Day is available on the "One Court of Justice" Web site.